

## **Meeting Minutes**

**September 17, 2014**

Members in Attendance: Heidi Hample, Rachel Buonopane, Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan James, Michael Rademacher

Members Absent: Kerrie Fallon, Molly Flueckiger, John Thompson

Others Present: Jack Jones/ADA Coordinator, Danny van Leuwen (resident), Beverly Bevilacqua (resident, volunteer at Arlington Senior Center), Christopher Ellinger (True Story Theatre), Gregg Ames (Massachusetts Rehab Commission), Christine Ilacqua (resident)

Meeting began at 4:05 pm

### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **1. Gregg Ames, October Job fair, October 15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

- Job fair: employers signed up, many volunteers, vendors ready to come with their clients looking for jobs
- Will set up the night before
- Open the doors at 10 am, set aside first half hour for people with mobility, hearing and visual, then open for all 10:30-1
- Usually see about 300 people
- ***Requesting if commission can assist with water, and would appreciate any volunteers to assist with navigating the fair***
- Jack will work to set aside reserved parking spaces
- Last year 50 people hired from the event
- Molly has reached out to diversity task force to be involved
- Beverly interested in volunteering, ***Heidi will look to reach out to people that signed up to volunteer (during town day)***

#### **2. Minutes from 8/20/14**

- Deferred to next month

#### **3. Christopher Ellinger, True Story Theater**

- Susan has been working to coordinate a performance with True Story Theater
- Theater company in Arlington for 14 years, 60+ shows this year
- They perform different themes
- Will act out stories of visible and invisible stories of disability
- HRC looking to spread the word as well as other groups in town
- Will perform at the Senior Center on the ground floor
- 35-50 people

- 7:30-9:15, Friday October 17<sup>th</sup>
- Will need assist for set up by 7pm
- Would appreciate volunteers to tell stories of living with a disability to performers  
They meet every first and third Sunday from 2-5. September 21st rehearsal at Chris' private studio. (Ask Rachel or Heidi for address) October 5<sup>th</sup> at Community room at Robbins Library. Email contact [Christopher@truestorytheater.org](mailto:Christopher@truestorytheater.org)
- Heidi was able to get contact info to obtain a sign language interpreter
- \$15 tickets

#### **4. Town Day**

- great turn out for the event, good organization this year with the sub committee
- organized set up
- afternoon hours got busy, concern that there was not time to talk to all the people that came by
- Susan suggesting that there be at least 3 people at all times, suggested trying some sort of structure to put our sign up higher above the front of the tent
- Heidi asking for feedback regarding the event
- **Items to follow up on?**
- People interested in volunteering (will look to get them involved with the job fair)
- *Heidi will reach out to members that offered to volunteer to see if they can get involved with the Job fair*
- Danny spoke with someone from a local private school that has been educating students about disabilities
- Jack suggesting that newsletter draft be completed by August meeting, discussion of possibly earlier
- Heidi giving thanks, as chair, to the group for our efforts this year. Asking about rewarding the group this year for our effort. *Group to think about it and discuss again.*
- Special thanks to Susan for researching and typing up famous people with disabilities
- Subcommittee: Heidi, Susan, Kerrie and Molly organized a great event!
- Every member participated this year, thank you.

#### **5. Christine Bongiorno**

- Opted not to come today, will come next month

#### **6. Consultant Discussion**

- How would it be helpful to have someone come in?
- Could communication in this group be improved? Could communication with the town be improved?
- Will look to follow up with Christine at next month's meeting regarding having a consultant come. What progress has been made? And what type of consultant we should have? Go back to the bylaws.

#### **7. Elections next month**

- To be held next month, regarding Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary
- Vacancy will be posted regarding open position on commission since Janice has left

- Discussion of who may be interesting in any of the three position
- Discussion of adjusting the bylaws to extend terms if needed
- ***Email Molly if you are interested in any of the three elected positions***

#### **8. ADA coordinator's report**

- Temporary use of a wheelchair coordinated with Social worker and human services office for town employee to use for town day
- Chair lift located in Town Hall was jammed this month, was repaired
- Minuteman Elderly and disability services has invited Commission members to a conference on October 22, 2014 at Minuteman.
- Julie Brazile (Vision 20/20) asking for our involvement in the survey, subcommittee has been formed and is working on it

#### **9. Vision 20/20 Survey Committee**

- Vision 20/20 subcommittee (Molly, Susan, Rachel) met in between meeting to discuss development of questions
- Series of questions had been discussed and filtered down to 4 topics
- Members present discussed as a working meeting to develop the questions
- Items near finalization, however, not enough members to officially vote
- ***Rachel to type up questions and call for a special meeting to get a quorum to vote on questions to be submitted***

#### **10. Vice Chair needs your help**

- Heidi will need to leave meeting at 5:15 next month asking for fill in to run meeting after that

#### **11. Other Business**

- Maida Pharmacy has a step and resident asking if during the Mass Ave project, it could be done
- ***Discussion of following up with pharmacy possibly with information on tax incentives and increased business with making business accessible***

#### ***Handouts Issued to Commission Members during Meeting***

*Meeting Agenda*

*Meeting Minutes August*

*ADA coordinators report*

*Memo from Town Hall regarding confirmation for Job Fair in October*

*Proposal from Consensus Building Institute to facilitate our group*

*Arlington Vision 20/20 survey from 2005 with feedback for informational purposes*

*Disabilities Issues (quarterly newsletter)*

**Meeting adjourned 6:00pm**

**Next Meeting set October 15, 2014**